



Tribes/ EPA Region 6 Workshop

CASE STUDY: Environmental Education with Local Communities in Belize

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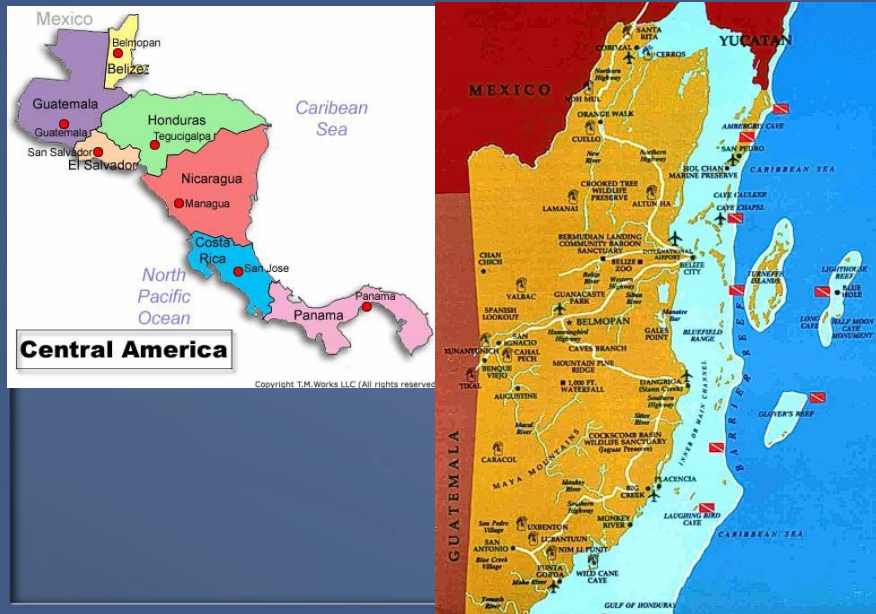
CASE STUDY: ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION IN BELIZE

THIS PRESENTATION:

- Project area background
- Project details
- Lessons learned & how I learned them



PROJECT AREA BACKGROUND: BELIZE



One foot in the Caribbean, the other in Central America



Oklahoma and Belize- anything in common?



THINGS IN COMMON

- **PEOPLE**- concerned citizens
- **PROBLEMS**- basic urban services- water and wastewater, solid waste; protected areas; endangered species; fisheries; etc.
- **PROJECTS**- taking steps towards solving the problems, and...



MORE THINGS IN COMMON

■ PERSPIRATION!!!

OKLAHOMA →

↓
BELIZE



The days ahead

Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
Sct Thunderstorms	Sct Thunderstorms	Sct Thunderstorms	Sct Thunderstorms
HI 91 F (32 C)	HI 89 F (31 C)	HI 90 F (32 C)	HI 91 F (32 C)
LO 79 F (26 C)	LO	LO	LO



FRIENDS OF NATURE

- Formed by five local villages- became NGO in 2002
- Main concern- fisheries and environmental degradation due to trawling, coastal development, loss of mangroves, shrimp farms, tourism



ENVIRONMENTAL THREATS



LAUGHING BIRD CAYE BECOMES A NATIONAL PARK



FON ACTIVITIES

- Enforcement
- Monitoring
- Education/ Outreach



EDUCATION AND OUTREACH PROGRAM

The collage consists of four photographs: top-left shows a man standing next to a map on an easel and a banner for 'FRIENDS OF NATURE' at the 'Pointe à Pitre District'; top-right shows a group of young girls in school uniforms looking intently at something off-camera; bottom-left shows a man holding a book and talking to a group of children outdoors; bottom-right shows a woman pointing at a large informational poster on a wall.

MAIN TASKS:

1. TRAIN TRAINERS
2. STUDENT PROGRAMS
3. ENVIRONMENTAL CLUBS

The Tetra Tech logo, featuring a stylized 'Tt' inside a square followed by the text 'TETRA TECH'.

SEVEN LESSONS LEARNED (usually the hard way)

1. Identify the right people
2. Use local media
3. Build trust
4. Build consensus
5. Continuity is key
6. Keep message clear & simple
7. Keep expectations realistic (and have a backup plan)!



LESSON 1: IDENTIFY THE RIGHT PEOPLE

- Village council, water board, PTA, youth groups, educators, village elders, etc.
- The loudest person is not necessarily the right one!
- Be inclusive.



LESSON 2: USE LOCAL MEDIA

- Reach out: community meetings, local media (newspaper, TV, radio, fliers, phone calls, word of mouth)
- Advertise, advertise, advertise.
- Bribe them to come with food.

MOVIE NIGHT WITH...



FRIENDS OF NATURE!!!

Join us for a showing of
"FINDING NEMO"



When: Sunday, November 14th at 4:00 p.m.

Where: Placencia Community Center

How much: Free! But please BRING A CUP to get refreshments.

Come see the movie and learn about how to get involved in the Placencia Environmental Youth Club. See you there!!



LESSON 3: BUILD TRUST

- Importance of local partner
- Takes time
- Follow through



LESSON 4: BUILD CONSENSUS



What does the community need?

Build consensus for projects
& activities around needs



LESSON 4, Continued: BUILD CONSENSUS



LESSON 5: CONTINUITY IS KEY



Lesson 6: KEEP MESSAGE CLEAR & SIMPLE



LESSON 7: KEEP EXPECTATIONS REALISTIC



THANK YOU!



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